Lifting of Ban on Kesari Dal

1109. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News Report which appeared in THE HITAVADA dated the 15th January, 1991 under the caption 'Research on Kesari Dal—BOSE AWARD FOR DR. KOTHARI';

(b) whether it is a fact that Kesari Dal is the cheapest and easily cultivable food commodity consumed by the poor masses; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to lift the ban on production and sale of KESARI DAL as it is proved that this dal is harmless for human consumption in view of the scientific findings by Dr. Kothari and the high prices of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the cheapest pulse crop and is easily cultivated.

(c) Under Rule-44-A, of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) the powers have been provided to the State Governments to ban the consumption of Kesari dal in any form. All the State Governments have banned the consumption and sale of Kesari Dal in their States excepting Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. States of Assam and Uttar Pradesh have banned the cultivation of this pulse crop. In July 1988 MOS (Agriculture) wrote to the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal for considering to imposition of a ban on cultivation/marketing of Kesari dal on the direction of Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

The Ministry of Agriculture in this matter is guided by the Ministry of Health and ICAR. The views of ICAR are that "In view of the proven toxicity of BOAA, further work on the effect of long term feeding of lathyrus dal and detailed clinico pathological studies are needed to establish the safe limits of consumption of the Dal" The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has not supported the lifting of ban on sale of Kesari dal. Under such circumstances Ministry is unable to consider to lift ban on the sale of Kesari dal.

Late arrival of North-East Express

1110. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times North East Express reached at respective destinations late during the last one year; month-wise and destination-wise;

(b) whether on the 8th January, 1991 Guwahati bound North-East Express departed late; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether AC-III Tier coach was replaced with AC-II Tier coach at the eleventh hour on the same day; what was the reason thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to run this train in time which connects Assam's capital with Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWER MISHRA): (a) *statement* is attached.

(b) Yes, Sir. The train left New Delhi 2 hours late as its link train arrived late on account of equipment failure in the diesel loco enroute.

(c) The train ran without AC 2 Tier coach as its link train arrived without this since it got mechanically damaged at New Jalpaiguri

(d) Round the clock monitoring and intensive chasing.